

Message Text

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FOR ARA, D AND L ONLY

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION

1. I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER CARVAJAL AT HIS REQUEST ON MARCH 16. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER GENERAL VALDES WAS ALSO PRESENT. CARVAJAL SAID HE WANTED TO DISCUSS WITH ME THE LETELIER CASE. HE SAID THAT FROM THE INVESTIGATION SO FAR HE CONCLUDED THAT IN THE LETELIER CASE THE GOC HAD COMMITTED A NUMBER OF VENIAL SINS BUT NOT A MORTAL SIN. HE SAID THAT THE INVESTIGATION HAD REVEALED THAT A NUMBER OF CHILEANS, PROBABLY DINA AGENTS, HAD TRAVELLED TO THE UNITED STATES ON OFFICIAL PASSPORTS UNDER FALSE NAMES AND ENGAGED IN ALL KINDS OF HANKY PANKY. IN HIS VIEW, HOWEVER, THEY WERE NOT CONNECTED WITH THE LETELIER MURDER. HE THEN RECALLED THAT THE GOC HAD EXPELLED THE MILITANT ANTI-CASTRO CUBAN OTERO INTO U.S. HANDS AND HAD REFUSED ORLANDO BOSCH'S REQUEST TO SET UP A CUBAN GOVERNMENT IN EXILE IN CHILE. HE BELIEVED THAT THE CUBANS HAD ASSASSINATED LETELIER AS AN ACT OF VENGEANCE TO SMEAR THE GOC BECAUSE IT HAD FAILED TO SUPPORT THEM. TO PROVE HIS THEORY, HE SAID THAT OTERO HAD RECOGNIZED ONE OF THE CHILEANS AS HIS "CONTACT" FROM THE PHOTOS THAT APPEARED IN THE U.S. AND CHILEAN PRESS. THESE PHOTOS OF THE TWO MEN, HOWEVER,

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WERE THE VISA APPLICANTS IN PARAGUAY AND THESE MEN NEVER TRAVELLED TO THE UNITED STATES. THUS, OTERO'S FINGERING ONE OF THEM SHOWED HIS BAD FAITH. CARVAJAL SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO BORE ME WITH HIS THEORIES BUT HAD CALLED ME IN TO INFORM ME THAT PRESIDENT PINOCHET HAD GIVEN HIM, AS WELL AS ALL THE OTHER MINISTERS, FIRM INSTRUCTIONS TO PURSUE THIS INVESTIGATION UNTIL ITS LOGICAL CONCLUSION AND THAT HE WANTED TO ASSURE ME ONCE MORE OF THE GOC'S FULL COOPERATION IN THIS MATTER.

2. I TOLD HIM THAT UNDER SECRETARY MONTERO, DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON, HAD DONE THE SAME THING AND THAT WE WERE COUNTING ON THE GOC'S FULL COOPERATION. I STRESSED THAT THE USG VIEWED THIS AFFAIR AS A SERIOUS MATTER AND THE ONLY WAY TO COUNTERACT THE ADVERSE PUBLICITY WAS TO PRODUCE THE FULL TRUTH ON A TIMELY BASIS. I SAID THAT AN FBI AGENT HAD ARRIVED THIS MORNING AND, AS ARRANGED IN WASHINGTON DURING THE MONTERO VISIT, WAS IN TOUCH WITH THE CNI. I SAID I HOPED THAT HE WOULD BE GIVEN ACCESS TO ALL PERSONS HE NEEDED TO QUESTION. OBTAINING THE INFORMATION THROUGH POLICE CHANNELS MIGHT BE FASTER THAN THROUGH THE LEGAL CHANNELS. MOREOVER, IT WOULD BE MORE FLEXIBLE AS THE FBI AGENT COULD ASK A NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS NOT COVERED IN THE LETTERS ROGATORY.

3. THE MINISTER SAID HE WAS NOT FULLY FAMILIAR WITH WHAT HAD BEEN ARRANGED IN WASHINGTON BUT HE WANTED TO ASSURE ME THAT THE JUDGE ASSIGNED TO THIS CASE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO PURSUE THIS CASE UNTIL THE FULL TRUTH WAS UNCOVERED.

4. I THANKED THE MINISTER FOR HIS PROFFERED COOPERATION AND SAID THAT THIS WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE THE LAST CONVERSATION WE HAD ON THE LETELIER CASE. IN ADDITION TO THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH WE CONSIDERED

IT WE ALSO HAD A TIMING PROBLEM. LONG DELAYS WOULD ONLY STIR UP PUBLIC OPINION IN THE UNITED STATES AND BRING ADDITIONAL PRESSURES ON ALL CONCERNED. I SAID I WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIS OFFER AND CALL
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ON HIM WHENEVER I SUSPECTED UNNECESSARY DELAYS OR A STALLING ON THE PART OF THE CHILEAN POLICE OR JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES.

5. HE ASSURED ME OF HIS EQUAL INTEREST IN BRINGING THIS CASE TO A QUICK CONCLUSION WHICH WOULD PROVE THE GOC'S INNOCENCE. I SAID NOTHING.
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